



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 6251

LCO No. 4374

04374HB06251GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2008*) (a) As used in this
2 section and section 9-261 of the general statutes, as amended by this
3 act, "election day" means the day on which a regular election, as
4 defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, is held.

5 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 143 of the general
6 statutes, a person who (1) is not an elector and does not have a
7 pending application for admission as an elector under said chapter
8 143, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of
9 section 9-12 of the general statutes, may apply for admission as an
10 elector on election day.

11 (c) Any such application shall be made in accordance with the
12 provisions of section 9-20 of the general statutes, provided (1) the
13 applicant shall appear in person at the office of the registrars of voters
14 on election day, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an
15 institution of higher education may submit a current photo

16 identification card issued by said institution in lieu of the identification
17 required by said section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under
18 oath that the applicant is not, to the applicant's knowledge, already
19 properly admitted as an elector and has not previously voted in the
20 election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide
21 under section 9-20 of the general statutes and this section does not
22 include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall
23 also submit a United States passport, a military identification card, a
24 learner's permit or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and
25 current address and is due not later than thirty days after the election
26 or, in the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher
27 education, a registration or fee statement from such institution that has
28 the applicant's name and current address. If the registrars determine
29 that an applicant is qualified, and admit the applicant as an elector, the
30 registrars shall give the applicant a notice of acceptance that indicates
31 the applicant's voting district and polling place. A notice of acceptance
32 shall be on a form designed to prevent forgery or counterfeiting, as
33 prescribed by the Secretary of the State. The registrars shall check the
34 state-wide centralized voter registration system before admitting an
35 applicant as an elector, to determine whether the applicant is an elector
36 in another municipality in the state.

37 (d) Not later than seven days after each election day, the registrars
38 of voters shall send a confirmation to the residential address of each
39 applicant who is admitted as an elector on election day under this
40 section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first-class mail with
41 instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the
42 address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation is returned
43 undelivered, the registrars shall refer the matter to the State Elections
44 Enforcement Commission which shall immediately conduct an
45 investigation.

46 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is
47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
48 *January 1, 2008*):

49 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
50 entered the polling place, the elector shall announce the elector's street
51 address, if any, and the elector's name to the checkers in a tone
52 sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the election officials present
53 to hear the same. Each elector who registered to vote by mail for the
54 first time on or after January 1, 2003, and has a "mark" next to the
55 elector's name on the official registry list, as required by section 9-23r,
56 shall present to the checkers, before the elector votes, either a current
57 and valid photo identification that shows the elector's name and
58 address or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government
59 check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name
60 and address of the elector. Each other elector shall (1) present to the
61 checkers the elector's Social Security card or any other preprinted form
62 of identification [which] that shows the elector's name and either the
63 elector's address, signature or photograph, or (2) on a form prescribed
64 by the Secretary of the State, write the elector's residential address and
65 date of birth, print the elector's name and sign a statement under
66 penalty of false statement that the elector is the elector whose name
67 appears on the official checklist. Such form shall clearly state the
68 penalty of false statement. A separate such form shall be used for each
69 elector. If the elector presents a preprinted form of identification under
70 subdivision (1) of this subsection, the checkers shall check the name of
71 such elector on the official checklist. If the elector completes the form
72 under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the assistant registrar of voters
73 shall examine the information on such form and either instruct the
74 checkers to check the name of such elector on the official checklist or
75 notify the elector that the form is incomplete or inaccurate. In the case
76 of an elector who is admitted on election day pursuant to section 1 of
77 this act, the elector shall also present to the checkers the notice of
78 acceptance given to the elector pursuant to section 1 of this act, and the
79 checkers shall add the elector's name and address to the official
80 checklist on such day and the elector shall be allowed to vote if
81 otherwise eligible to vote. As used in this section, "election day" means
82 "election day", as defined in section 1 of this act.

83 Sec. 3. Section 9-158a of the general statutes is repealed and the
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2008*):

85 As used in sections 9-139c, 9-140b, 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, and
86 9-307:

87 (1) "Federal election" means any general or special election or any
88 primary held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating
89 or electing any candidate for the office of president, vice president,
90 presidential elector, member of the United States Senate or member of
91 the United States House of Representatives;

92 (2) "Former resident" means a person who was a bona fide resident
93 of a town in this state and who has [removed] moved from that town
94 to another state less than thirty days before the day of a presidential
95 election and who for that reason is unable to register to vote in the
96 election in [his] said person's present [town or] state of residence;

97 (3) "Overseas elector" means any person permitted to vote pursuant
98 to subsection (b) of section 9-158b;

99 (4) "Presidential election" means an election at which electors of
100 President and Vice-President are elected;

101 (5) "Resident" means a bona fide resident of a town in this state;

102 (6) "State" includes any of the several states, the District of
103 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin
104 Islands; and

105 (7) "United States" includes the several states, the District of
106 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin
107 Islands, but does not include American Samoa, The Canal Zone, the
108 trust territory of the Pacific Islands or any other territory or possession
109 of the United States.

110 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-158b of the general statutes is

111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
112 *January 1, 2008*):

113 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of
114 age, is a [resident or] former resident and [who] has not forfeited [his]
115 said citizen's electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,
116 may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no
117 other offices, in the town in this state in which [he resides, or] said
118 citizen formerly resided in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-
119 158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

120 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general statutes is
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
122 *January 1, 2008*):

123 (a) (1) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not
124 later than the close of the polls on election day, each [resident, or]
125 former resident who desires to vote in a presidential election under
126 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, may apply
127 for a "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of the town in which
128 [he] said former resident is qualified to vote on the form prescribed in
129 section 9-158d, as amended by this act. Application for a "presidential
130 ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for
131 applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided
132 in said sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

133 (2) A municipal clerk shall have the authority to designate a location
134 in a municipal facility for the distribution, completion and processing
135 of presidential ballot applications and the distribution, casting and
136 return of presidential ballots under sections 9-158a to 9-158m,
137 inclusive, as amended by this act, on election day. Such municipal
138 clerk may appoint one or more presidential ballot assistants to serve at
139 such location, may delegate to such assistants any of the
140 responsibilities assigned to municipal clerks under said sections, and
141 shall train and supervise such presidential ballot assistants.

142 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-158d of the general statutes is
143 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
144 *January 1, 2008*):

145 (a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in
146 duplicate by the applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee
147 balloting, which shall provide substantially as follows:

148 To the Town Clerk of the Town of Connecticut

149 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in
150 absentee balloting that the following statements are true:

151 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

152 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction
153 of a disfranchising crime.

154 3. I was born on, and on the day of the next presidential election,
155 I shall be at least 18 years of age. [Check and complete 4 or 5,
156 whichever applies:

157 4. RESIDENT. I am a bona fide resident of the above town, to which
158 I am making this application, and I reside at Street. I moved to said
159 town on the day of, 20... Before becoming a resident of said town,
160 I resided at Street, in the Town of County of, State of]

161 [5.] 4. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above
162 town, to which I am making this application, and resided at Street
163 therein. I moved from such town to my present town of residence on
164 the day of, 20.., being within thirty days before the date of the
165 next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to vote
166 in said presidential election in my present town of residence. I am now
167 a bona fide resident of the Town of, in the state of, now residing
168 at Street therein.

169 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be

170 held on ..., 20... I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by
171 this ballot at that election. I am not eligible to vote for electors of
172 President and Vice-President [in any other town in Connecticut or] in
173 any other state.

174 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be given to me personally mailed to me at
175 (bona fide mailing address)

176 Dated at ..., this ... day of ... 20...

177 (Signature of applicant)

178 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is
179 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
180 *January 1, 2008*):

181 (a) A person applying for a presidential ballot in person shall
182 present: (1) A current and valid photo identification, or (2) a copy of a
183 current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or
184 other government document that shows the name and address of the
185 voter. The application for a presidential ballot by mail shall be
186 accompanied by: (A) A copy of a current and valid photo
187 identification, or (B) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
188 government check, paycheck or government document that shows the
189 name and address of the voter. Upon receipt of an application for a
190 presidential ballot under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the clerk,
191 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is
192 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the
193 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-
194 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and
195 envelopes for its return. At such time the clerks shall also mail a
196 duplicate of the application to the appropriate official of [(i) the state or
197 the town in this state in which the applicant last resided in the case of
198 an applicant who is a resident, or (ii)] the state [or the town in this
199 state] in which the applicant now resides. [in the case of an applicant

200 who is a former resident.]

201 Sec. 8. Section 9-158j of the general statutes is repealed and the
202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2008*):

203 Upon receipt of an application for a "Presidential Ballot" or
204 "Overseas Ballot" the town clerk shall forthwith notify the registrars of
205 voters of the applicant's name, with a notation designating [him] the
206 applicant as a person voting for presidential and vice-presidential
207 electors or federal offices only. If the name of a presidential voter [who
208 is a former resident] appears on the registry list, the registrars shall
209 insert the letters "pf" in the margin preceding [his] the voter's name.
210 The registrars shall prepare a list of names and addresses of
211 presidential voters and overseas electors whose names do not appear
212 on the registry list, for each voting district, which list shall accompany
213 the check list to be used at such election in such district. The registrars
214 shall insert the letters "pf" in the margin of such list of presidential
215 voters preceding the name of each applicant, [who is a former
216 resident.]

217 Sec. 9. Section 9-158k of the general statutes is repealed and the
218 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2008*):

219 The municipal clerk shall file each duplicate application or other
220 official information received by [him] such clerk from another state, [or
221 from another town in this state,] indicating that a person who formerly
222 resided [or presently resides] in such town has made application to
223 vote at a presidential election in such other state, [or town,] and shall
224 maintain an alphabetical index of such information for a period of one
225 hundred eighty days after the election. The clerk shall compare each
226 such application or statement of information with applications made
227 under the provisions of sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as
228 amended by this act, and, after the election, with the names checked
229 off as having voted on the check list for the election, to ascertain that
230 any such person has not voted more than once. Whenever the record
231 indicates that any person has applied for a presidential ballot and

232 indicated in [his] such person's application that [he] such person is
 233 applying as a former resident, and there is record evidence that such
 234 person has applied in another state [or town] as a new resident, the
 235 applicant's ballot shall not be cast in [his] such person's former town of
 236 residence.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-261(a)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158a
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158b(a)
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158c(a)
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158d(a)
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158e(a)
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158j
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	9-158k

Statement of Purpose:

To promote voter participation by permitting individuals to register and vote on the day of a regular election.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

H.B. 6251